

The Energy Crisis in South Africa

NSTF Discussion Forum

DAY 1: 24 April 2024

Speakers' Biographies



09:10-09:50

Skills Development in South Africa for a Just Transition

Ms Tshwanelo Rakaibe is a Senior Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) where she leads the CSIR's Just Energy Transition portfolio, leading a team of researchers whose work focuses on the socio-economic impacts of the transition. Her experience includes various roles in Eskom, national government, international development, and research. Tshwanelo holds an MSc in Energy studies from the University of Dundee in Scotland, BSc in Energy Studies as well as a BCom Honours in Economics (both from the University of Johannesburg (UJ)) and a BCom Economics degree from the University of Pretoria (UP).



10:00-10:30

A Just Transition to renewable energy sources

Mr Steve Nicholls leads the mitigation team at South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission (PCC). Steve works with a range of stakeholders to build consensus on net-zero pathways for each sector of the economy built on a strong fact base, while supporting capacity building and cooperation within the modelling community in South Africa. Understanding future competitive economies and the investments required to enhance South Africa's economic competitiveness while creating employment and reducing inequality and poverty is his key focus.

Steve's past experience is in connecting climate issues with economic impact and building the strategic case for integrating climate considerations into economic planning, strategy, risk management, investment planning, policy development and implementation.

Prior to joining the PCC, Steve led the Environment and Society programme at the National Business Initiative (NBI). In this role Steve ran the

	<p>programmes that harnessed the collective effort of South African business across the areas of Energy, Climate Change, and Water. Steve has worked in the consulting industry in the United Kingdom and South Africa and has worked on projects in Europe and Southern and East Africa. He has worked across several sectors including Mining, Telecoms, Government, Electrical Energy, Oil and Gas, Financial Services and Retail.</p>
<div data-bbox="237 871 711 1370" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="399 1370 552 1404" data-label="Text"> <p>10:30-11:00</p> </div> <div data-bbox="212 1404 738 1545" data-label="Text"> <p><i>Supporting South African Cities To Deliver An Energy Secure Future: Accelerating the direct sourcing of renewables in SA C40 Cities</i></p> </div>	<p>Ms Hlengiwe Radebe is a Renewable Energy Technical Adviser at C40 Cities. She is currently the technical lead and project manager for the new South African Renewable Energy project that is supporting five South African member cities (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Ekurhuleni, and Tshwane) to transform electricity systems in South Africa, by increasing renewable energy capacity.</p> <p>Hlengiwe is also currently serving as the chairperson of the board for South African Climate Action Network. Before joining C40, Hlengiwe worked with youth, labour unions, and civil society organisations on climate change and just energy transition at WWF South Africa as a Civil Society and Youth Engagement Officer. She also facilitated policy discussions between these stakeholders and the national government to push for more ambitious climate policies and accountability.</p> <p>Before she joined WWF, she worked at Sustainable Energy Africa as a Sustainable Energy Advisor focusing on policy advocacy and government capacity building, and coordinating large, multi-year programmes to help cities in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa develop and implement sustainable energy and climate change strategies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy poverty. In 2019, Hlengiwe was recognised at the Mail and Guardian Top Young South Africans. Hlengiwe holds an MSc in Interdisciplinary Global Change Studies from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and is currently participating in the Management Development Programme for Women in Renewable Energy (MDP) at Wits Business School.</p>



11:00-11:30

***The Silent Revolution – dispelling myths,
breaking barriers***

Mr Davin Chown has worked in business strategy, sustainable development and renewable energy industry since 1989. After starting of the NPO sector in 1989 he worked across a range of industries and sectors from banking, finance and investment, IT, forestry, water resources, mining and management consulting, where he was a senior manager at Accenture until 2001. Davin's experience is in the areas of strategy & business architecture, sustainability, energy project development & operations.

He led the commercialisation of Genesis Eco-Energy (which he acquired in late 2001) and led the initial development of the Genesis project pipeline. He put together the team that successfully won a bid to develop for 20MW wind farm in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality in 2006. Davin worked with a Government and industry sector team to help put together the framework for the REFIT in South Africa (which was later changed to a bidding scheme, namely the REIPPPP). In late 2008 Mr Chown led the Genesis team that secured an international development and finance JV partner for the South African projects and helped set up the company in South Africa. The JV was successful in being preferred bidder in 600MW of projects in various bid Round of the IPP Programme. Genesis currently has a pipeline of over 5000MW of wind, solar PV, storage and decentralised generation projects in South Africa. This also includes a sizeable offshore wind project portfolio. He has led the team in several successful finance raising transactions for wind farms and a capital raising for the Genesis Group itself, and secured a number of local and international partnerships with innovative and forward thinking renewable energy and investment groups. Davin served on the board of the SA Wind Energy Association (2009 -2011). He is a founder member of the SA PV Industry Association where her served as its Chairperson from 2012 to 2019. Furthermore he helped found, and sat on the board of the SA Renewable Energy Council, and is a board member and Treasurer of the SA Energy Storage Association (2022/23). He is a founder member of Incite Sustainability , OneWorld Sustainable Investments & CDM Africa, all of which are still operational. He was also a founding member of Biotherm (now BTE Renewables). He is responsible for managing the portfolio of companies in the Genesis Group and

	leads the strategy, commercialisation and development arms of the business. Davin also directs the Small Scale Embedded Generation project company withing the GIRE Group, TouchPoint Energy.
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